## February 9, 2016

This letter is submitted to San Luis Obispo County Planning Commissioners Jim Irving, Ken Topping, Eric Meyer, Jim Harrison, and Don Campbell regarding the Kiler Ridge Olive Oil hearing scheduled for February 11, 2016.

My wife and I planned to attend the hearing in person but a prior obligation at the Estrella Warbirds Museum precludes this, so we're offering this letter in lieu of our attendance.

We live off Kiler Canyon Road, approximately one-half mile from Kiler Ridge Olive Oil. We consider Gregg Bone and Audrey Burman, and their olive oil business, to be good neighbors.

Their enterprise with its emphasis on sustainable agricultural practices is a good fit with other agriculture businesses in North County. It starts with their frantoio which is attractively designed and built using straw-bale construction and extends to their state-of-the-art processing equipment. Even at the height of the harvest season when other growers need Gregg and Audrey's assistance it's rare to see more than a couple of pickup trucks, perhaps with a trailer, waiting to unload their olives for processing. Gregg and Audrey have posted speed observance signs so that visitors do not become a bother to their closest neighbors.

In addition to providing olive oils of the highest quality, they offer unique insights into olive oil with their knowledgeable tasting experiences. They are without peers as they walk participants through olive oil tasting in a setting with memorable views. We have visited other local olive oil businesses and none come close to the Kiler Ridge experience. In a unique twist, the hosts at the olive oil tasting now complete the activity by offering a spoon of vanilla ice cream with a dash of salt and a drizzle of Miller's Tuscan olive oil on top. We include a visit to Kiler Ridge on the "must do" list for our out of town visitors, along with the local museums, missions, and a few select wineries. In variably our visitors make purchases. Last October we took my wife's German cousins who were visiting us from Cologne to Kiler Ridge. They were so taken with the olive oil on ice cream that they called their friends in Germany on the spot to instruct them on how to apply olive oil to their ice cream!

Ren and Toni Stelloh 850 Almira Park Way

18th a. Hilloh

Paso Robles

Holly Phipps

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December 31, 2015

c/o County Panning Department County Government Center San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Conditional Use Permit Application DRC2013-00096; Bone; Kiler Ridge Olive Farm.

Dear Ms Phipps and County Planning Commissioners.

I am a neighbor and can clearly see the activities of "Kiler Ridge Olive Farm". I have written concerning this CUP in the past. I wish to repeat some information and add information and proposals based on conditions and the history of this CUP.

I oppose allowing any use permit for Kiler Ridge Olive Farm. The application inappropriately asks for a permit to perform industrial and commercial activities in our area which is zoned Agricultural and Rural Residential. Kiler Canyon is a winding unmarked road with blind corners and no shoulder. Olive oil processing is industrial, and involves trucks and trailers and short term employees who are unfamiliar with the road. This CUP requests other public activities that would involve many more cars and delivery trucks. This proposed permit is not compatible with our community.

Kiler Canyon Road is a designated Bicycle Path. Walkers and joggers also use Kiler Canyon Road in increasing numbers. Very little of Kiler Canyon Road allows for two cars to pass in the presence of a pedestrian or bicyclist. Allowing this use permit would endanger lives and diminish the value of our lives and our property.

The application for a restaurant is particularly absurd and clearly must require a change of zoning to be allowed. Zoning laws should be enforced to protect legitimate businesses and allow people to build their homes and plan their lives. Changing the zoning of this area should be done in a legal, orderly manner. Spot zoning is illegal.

The activities of the proposed businesses will have significantly negative effects for the community but nothing will be done to offset these effects. The abandoned county road leading to the Bone facility and their road and parking lot are all dirt and many days of the year a visible dust cloud rises whenever vehicles travel there. These roads should be paved. It should also have a turn around for those times trucks and cars are denied entrance by the closed gates. The infrastructure of Kiler Canyon is not adequate to handle the increase in traffic required for this proposed use. The applicant should be required to make most of Kiler Canyon Road safer to make up for the danger the project adds. That would require improvements to a mile of road or more.

All parties agree that the applicants are allowed to process the olives from trees of their own and adjacent properties. However, Kiler Ridge envisions trucking in many, many times the amount of fruit that is being grown on the property. Unlike making wine, olive oil processing is simply an extractive industrial process that should be done in a place

with adequate roads and facilities. (There is in fact, already more than needed processing capacity in the county.)

During building, the owners intentionally did not install fire sprinklers in their "ag building" but they have had public assembly there. They operated a restaurant without a permit after lying about what was being built. In the past the owners have brought in outside processing without a permit. In the past they have had events without permit or proper egress roads. The abandoned county road needs engineering and widening. In the past the applicants have brushed the dirt on that piece of road to hide cracks right before county agents visited. Currently, the owners have not applied for an event permit because they know they clearly cannot legally qualify, but past experience has shown they will willfully violate the law in spite of danger to the public.

If you do permit outside processing or public activities at this site, I request that you include a sunset clause that would revoke the permit if the owners violate permit requirements. The number of vehicles and people allowed to assemble should be specifically limited. There needs enforcement.

The owners have chosen to put their buildings and dirt parking lot on top of a hill that used to be covered with almond trees. The building and vehicles and equipment can be seen in places on Kiler Canyon Road and from many of the neighbor houses. The dirt parking lot on top of the hill causes vehicle lights to shine in all directions. I would request that the owners install visible screening.

Although I ask for enforceable conditions, I believe that zoning and meaningful Community Planning would not allow this Conditional Use Permit. Unless we openly enforce or publicly change the zoning of this and other areas, our future will be decided by those with the greatest disregard for the rest of the community.

Thank you,

Rogan Thompquist 1045 Kiler Canyon

Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commissions

Jim Irving, Ken Topping, Eric Meyer, Jim Harrison and Don Campbell

I am writing you this letter of recommendation for Gregg Bone and Audrey Burnham in their efforts to acquire a Conditional Use Permit for their business Kiler Ridge Olive Farm near Paso Robles. I have known Gregg and Audrey for several years and know them to be big contributors to their community in many ways. They run a very classy business at a beautiful location overlooking Paso Robles and Templeton. They support many charities and public functions throughout the area. They freely help educate other small olive growers in the area in the latest technology in growing and processing olives. They are both very sensitive to the privacy and environment of their neighbors and the whole community.

While they are a small operation they hire and train people to help in all aspects of the olive oil business. They have in the past developed several successful businesses and know what it takes to make Kiler Ridge Olive Farm a success for the community. Please give their application for a CUP considerable consideration as I know they will be a big asset to the local olive oil business and the whole community.

Thanks, Earl Norcross

8110 Castenada Lane Atascadero, Ca 93422

Feb. 9, 2015 Wendy McIntire 1912 Park Street, Paso Robles, 93446

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission County Government Center Monterey St. San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Re: Kiler Ridge Olive Farm Conditional Use Permit

## Planning Commissioners:

I fully support Gregg Bone and Audrey Burnam's permit request to operate an olive oil tasting room and small restaurant to showcase their oil, and to mill offsite olives.

I have visited Kiler Ridge Olive Farm several times to enjoy an informative oil tasting session, and to witness small local olive farmers bringing their olives to the mill for processing. The beauty of the site, the smell of the fresh pressed olives, the sense of community apparent in the local farmers, are experiences that I would not know if Gregg and Audrey were not able to operate and share this with the public.

The state-of-the-art olive mill at Kiler Ridge is one of the few available mills for olive farmers ranging from larger producing farms to small backyard plots. I was lucky to be there one weekend when a family brought in their small crop in the back of their SUV. The multiple varieties and colors were gorgeous; the aroma as they were pressed was divine. This facility is needed in north county.

Among the many other reasons to allow this facility to operate, it is great for the tourism industry. It offers a safe alternate to wine tasting that the whole family can enjoy. I have sent several visitors there myself.

Thanks for the opportunity to share this with you. I hope you will see this in the same light.

Respectfully,

Wendy McIntire Paso Roblan

## THOMAS R. and DR. LISA S. MEREDITH

2280 Alcyona Drive Los Angeles, CA 90068 Home 323-461-9744/Cell 323-229-3094

> tommeredit@aol.com lisasmeredith@gmail.com

February 9, 2016

County Planning Commissioners: Jim Irving, Ken Topping, Eric Meyer, Jim Harrison, Don Campbell Romona Hedges, Assistant

Re.: Support for Kiler Ridge Olive Farm Permit Request

Dear Planning Commissioners:

We are in total support of the Kiler Ridge Olive Farm Project and urge the County Planning Commission to grant the Bones's Permit request without delay.

Over the past 10 years, Dr. Gregg Bone and Dr. Audrey Burnam have made a sizable personal investment of time and money in, and thereby contributed significantly to, the agricultural-focused Paso Robles economy. By farming and milling an outstanding line of olive oil products, the Kiler Ridge line of artisan olive oils and soaps have enriched the local community...and the industry overall. As a complement to the tourist-drawing established wineries in the area, Kiler Ridge is a pride of the County.

Gregg and Audrey have not limited their involvement in the local community to only growing and milling their own and others' olives, the Kiler Ridge business model has evolved to include a unique destination that provides tourists (and locals) with a distinctive tasting opportunity, rich in product insights and comparative information. In addition, Gregg and Audrey added a professional kitchen. With spectacular vistas and featuring local chefs, this kitchen offered quality, but simple, fare that showcased Kiler Ridge olive oil and delivered an illuminating experience for understanding exceptional food and olive oil parings. Again, Kiler Ridge is an extraordinary attraction that adds to the local economy.

We have worked every harvest at Kiler Ridge, have brought family members to enjoy the tasting and food and recently celebrated a milestone birthday by holding a party at the facility, hosted by Gregg and Audrey. We buy Kiler Ridge's fine olive oils, exclusively. I make these points because it has afforded us the privilege of getting to know these amazing individuals. The fact that Gregg and Audrey built an environmentally friendly and noise mitigating strawbale barn, graciously lend their support and advice to other olive growers and continue a commitment to sustainable farming practices, illustrates their upstanding character. Gregg and Audrey are assets to their field and model citizens to the community.

Gregg Bone and Audrey Bernam deserve to 1) use their existing facilities for olive oil tasting and retail sales, 2) operate a small kitchen featuring their line of olive oils and 3) engage in off-site olives milling. Kiler Ridge simply cannot survive economically without full approval of the permit requested.

Respectfully.

Thomas R. Meredith/Lisa S. Meredith



## Letter regarding Planning Committee Hearing February 11 regarding Gregg and Audrev Bone

Libbie Agran to: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

02/09/2016 09:02 PM

To the Planning Commission
Jim Irving
Ken Topping
Eric Meyer
Jim Harrison
Don Campbell

My name is Libbie Agran and I am a lover and consumer of olive oil grown and produced in SLO County. I am writing to urge you to grant the permit to Gregg and Audrey Bone to operate an olive oil tasting room and small restaurant on their property. They make fragrant and delicious olive oil and they should be able to offer samples of a healthy delicious product and sell it directly to the public.

We are all supporting agriculture and agricultural tourism in SLO County. Olives are a drought tolerant crop and highly sustainable. Olives have been grown here for hundreds of years and our part of our California heritage. Gregg and Audrey are committed to sustainable agricultural practice. Their olive oil is a highly desirable product which will bring tourists and revenue to our SLO County.

I also urge you to grant the permit to mill off site olives for other local olive growers who need these services to succeed in their own small businesses.

With passion and gratitude, Libbie Agran

To: County Planning Commissioners

Re: County for a Conditional Use Permit for Kiler Ridge Olive Farm, Paso Robles, CA

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, my name is Mark Hirschbek, and I live nearby in Arroyo Grande, CA. I am writing this letter today to express my support for Kiler Ridge Olive Farm's Conditional Use Permit request.

I fully advocate for the farm's needed service provided to olive growers, and for it's significant contribution to the local community. Not only is it critical for small, local businesses to thrive in the area, but also for olive farms like Kiler Ridge to be able to educate consumers through agricultural tourism.

Above all things, Kiler Ridge is committed to sustainable farming practices, and this is essential to the local community and creates a large scale impact. This farm provides many valued services to the community as well as other local growers.

For small olive farmers, off-site milling is necessary, and an important step in providing these services and community contributions. I fully support this permit request and find it viable. I look forward to the future of this area having Kiler Ridge a big part of it.

Sincerely,

Mark Hirschbek

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